GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:453
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2003
NEW DRUG POLICY
ALE NARENDRA;GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received a report from the experts committee on the New Drug Policy in the wake of liberalization and globalisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the time bound action plan formulated for the healthy and faster growth of pharma industry, upgradation and expansion of pharma education including R and D on the pattern of IT industry to acquire lead position in the emerging global scenario in this sector;

(d) whether any study has been conducted to fix the cost of various drugs;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Union Government propose to revise the prices of various bulk drugs; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA)

(a) to (g) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (G) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.453 FOR ANSWE ON 22.4.2003 REGARDING NEW DRUG POLICY.

(a) to (c) : In March, 1999, the Government had constituted a Drug Price Control ReviewCommittee (DPCRC) under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, to review the current drug price control mechanism and to suggest alternate models, if any, with a view to reduce the rigours of price control where they had become counter productive. Another Committee namely, Pharmaceutical Research and Development Committee (PRDC) was also constituted in March,1999 under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, Director General, CSIR, to recommend measures to strengthen the research and development capability of the pharmaceutical industry in the country and to identify the support required by Indian pharmaceutical companies to undertake domestic research and development. The recommendations of the DPCRCand PRDC have been examined and taken into account while formulating the Pharmaceutical Policy-2002, which was announced in February,2002. No expertscommittee was constituted by the Government on the Pharmaceutical Policy-2002.Pharmaceutical Policy-2002, envisages, interalia, measures relating to encouragement to Research & Development and Pharma Education & Training.

(d) to (g) : Fixation/Revision of prices of Scheduled drugs is an ongoing process and isundertaken by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance withthe provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order,1995. Revision of the prices is done as and when called for taking into account the changes in input costs resulting in both upward as well as downward revision. The NPPA has fixed/revised prices of 100 bulk drugs/derivatives since its inception in August,1997.